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SECRETARIAT

OF

THE ODISHA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

NOTIFICATION

The 10th October, 2025

No. 6810/L.A.– The following Bill, which has been introduce in the Odisha Legislative Assembly on the dated 22nd September, 2025 is here with published under rule-68 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Odisha Legislative Assembly for general information.

THE ODISHA UNIVERSITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

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BILL

FURTHER TO AMEND THE ODISHA UNIVERSITIES ACT, 1989

BE it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Odisha in the Seventy-sixth year of the Republic of India, as follows :–

Short Title and Commencement.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Odisha Universities (Amendment) Act, 2025.

(2) It shall be deemed to have come into force on dated 23rdJuly, 2025.

Odisha Act 5 of 1989.

Amendment of Section 6.

2. In the Odisha Universities Act, 1989 (hereinafter referred to as the Principal Act), in Section 6,-

(a) in sub-section (3), in the proviso to clause (iii), for the word “refuse”, the word “recuse” shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (10), for the proviso thereto, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely:—

"provided that where it is not reasonably practicable to fill up the vacancy in the manner as aforesaid immediately after it occurs, the Chancellor in consultation with the State Government may appoint any of the Vice-Chancellor of any Public University of the State or any other person as the Vice-Chancellor for a period as specified by the Chancellor or till joining of a regular Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor so appointed shall exercise the powers and perform the functions of the Vice-Chancellor and shall be entitled to such allowance as determined by the Chancellor."

Amendment of Section 13A.

3. In the principal Act, in Section 13A, in sub-section (3), for the word "Hall", the word "Half" shall be substituted.

Repeal and Saving.

4. (1) The Odisha Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025 is hereby repealed. Odisha Ordinance No. 01 of 2025.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal under sub-section (1), anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance so repealed shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act.

Statement of Objects and Reasons

The Odisha Universities Act, 1989 was enacted in the year 1989 and further amended till 2024. At present out of 17nos. of Public Universities under Higher Education Department, 15 nos. of Public Universities are governed by the Odisha Universities Act, 1989.

With passage of time, some of the existing provisions of the Act are felt necessary to be amended to ensure seamless administrative and academic functioning of universities. Hence, it becomes imperative to revisit and amend certain provisions of the Act.

The Government of Odisha is desirous of taking proactive steps to ensure uninterrupted governance and administrative stability in State Universities by way of this amendment. Through this amendment, some of the key provisions of the Odisha Universities Act, 1989 shall be amended to resolve operational challenges and carry out important legislative corrections.

Currently, the term of Vice-Chancellors in 13nos. of Public Universities have been completed except Berhampur University and Sambalpur University, and the selection process for regular Vice-Chancellors is going on. As per the existing Act, as the term of existing Vice-Chancellors are over, so appointing any Vice-Chancellor as in- charge Vice-Chancellor of one or more universities may lead to potential academic and administrative complications in management of affairs of both the Universities. Hence, further amendment in enhancing the jurisdiction of Hon'ble Chancellor regarding appointment of Vice-Chancellor is felt necessary.

So, this amendment empowers the Chancellor to appoint any other person as Vice-Chancellor for the time being fixing such tenure as deemed fit until the regular appointment of Vice-Chancellor is made. This amendment of the sub-section 10 of Section 6 of the Act shall ensure continuity and stability in university Governance.

To correct a typographical error in the existing Act, it has been proposed to amend the clause (iii) of sub-section (3) of Section 6 of the Act wherein the word "refuse" shall be replaced with "recuse".

Another typographical correction has been made by substituting the word "hall" with the word "half" thereby amending the sub-section (3) of Section 13-A of the Act.

This amendment, with the enhancement of jurisdiction of Hon'ble Chancellor on Public Universities, shall ensure smooth functioning of universities, maintain administrative continuity, and support a stable academic environment.

SURYABANSHI SURAJ

Member-in-Charge

SATYABRATA ROUT
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